

Start Talking!

Building a Drug-Free Future



Chardon student's team up to fight drug, alcohol addiction in their community



intervention programs offered by the Lake helps residents conquer their addictions and

More than 300 people attended the event. items donated by local business and a corn were able to raise nearly \$7,000. Add that to Way to match their proceeds, the students \$17,000 to help fight substance abuse and

More than a dozen current and former Chardon High School students joined together and organized a Community Family Picnic on July 10th to engage the community in the fight against drug and alcohol addiction.

For these students too many people in Geauga County, many of them teens, have struggled with drug addiction over the past year. Drug addiction is an issue the students believe must be addressed in the community to prevent it from getting worse.



Their mission was to raise \$5,000 to support the prevention and Geauga Recover Center which turn their lives around.

Through sales of food, raffles for hole tournament, the students the commitment by the United generated a donation of almost addiction in their community.

Nick Miraglia, 2015 Chardon High School graduate and event coordinator stepped up when the drug problem hit close to home. "My main motivation for being involved was when actual people were dying - people that I knew and it hit home a lot harder."

Marissa Perrico, a Chardon High School sophomore, knew she wanted to make a difference.

"When I realized that teenagers just like me were standing up for something bigger than themselves, I knew I had to become involved in this project. I loved how all of us shared a passion for helping people suffering from heroin addiction."

Justin Stanko, a Chardon High School junior, ultimately hopes more people will learn how big of a problem there is. "Not enough teens think of it as a problem and what it can lead to. Overall there is not enough conversation about drugs and the consequences they can bring. Parents, peers, and the school system need to talk and act on this problem more."

Start Talking! In your Community

Similar to the students in Chardon, many groups and organizations across the state are beginning to engage in the fight against drug abuse in their communities - either to raise funds for local treatment and intervention groups or to raise awareness of the dangers associated with drug abuse.

If you would like to learn how you can host an event or how to start the conversation in your own school, church, organization or community, there are many different tools available on the Start Talking! website (www.starttalking.ohio.gov). If you have any questions or would like to obtain materials such as presentations, and fact sheets, please feel free to contact Start Talking! at info@starttalking.ohio.gov.

If you are planning a community event or have held one, please forward those details including photos or graphics so it can be shared in this communication.